

WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report October 2004

1. [Desert Aire Spends \\$5,000 Security Grant Wisely](#)
2. [Search Suspended for Missing L-39 Plane](#)
3. [Three Popular State-owned Airports to Stay Open Through Winter](#)
4. [Air Search Locates Wreckage of Fatal Cessna 172 Crash](#)
5. [Sport Aviation Center Closer to Reality at Arlington Airport](#)
6. [Forest Service Comes Through at Lake Wenatchee](#)
7. [Airport Layout Plan Kick-Off Meetings Conclude in Rosalia](#)

1. Desert Aire Spends \$5,000 Security Grant Wisely

Desert Aire Airport, one of 13 airports that applied for and received a WSDOT Aviation Security Grant this year, put its money to good use by installing:

- New flood lighting to improve visibility and safety.
- New phone line and telephone for making emergency 911 calls.
- A bollard entrance gate with pedestal lights.

After inspection, Stan Allison remarked, “I cannot think of a better use of these general aviation security funds.

The airport has made huge strides in protecting its aircraft parking ramp. These are exactly the types of projects we had hoped would maximize these \$5,000 grants. I could not be more pleased.”



Desert Aire Used a WSDOT Security Grant to Install a Phone for Emergencies

2. Search Suspended for Missing L-39 Plane

On October 24, after five and a half days of combing over 2,700 square miles, search and rescue teams officially suspended the search for a missing L-39 single-engine trainer jet. Pilot Rocky Stewart and passenger Scott Smith were on board the aircraft on Tuesday, October 19 when it departed Boeing Field in the afternoon and disappeared from radar near Easton. The plane was headed to Lewiston, Idaho.

Rescue teams from WSDOT, Washington Air Search and Rescue, the Civil Air Patrol, King County, Kittitas County, Chelan County, and Snohomish County participated in the search by air and ground. The search effort included two helicopters, 12 fixed winged aircraft, and about 100 search and rescue personnel per day.

“The radar information led us to an area between Kachess Lake and Keechelus Lake, which is near Easton,” said WSDOT Air Search and Rescue Coordinator, Tom Peterson. “We flew that area numerous times. With the accumulating snow and no new leads to go on, we made the decision to suspend official search efforts.”

About a dozen family members had gathered at the search base in Ellensburg. The Kittitas County Red Cross was on hand to provide family members with meals for four days.

If anyone has information on the missing aircraft, please contact the Kittitas County Sheriff’s Office at (509) 925-8534.



Lower Granite State Airport

3. Three Popular State-owned Airports to Stay Open Through Winter

Fall inspections were completed at the three state-owned airports located along the Snake River: Lower Monumental, Little Goose, and Lower Granite. All remain in great shape and, according to the guest books, have seen regular usage during the flying season. Since these airports receive little or no snow, they will stay open through the winter. Several pilot groups have expressed interest in using state-owned airports during

winter months as weather conditions allow.

4. Air Search Locates Wreckage of Fatal Cessna 172 Crash

Around 9 a.m. on October 30, the charred wreckage of a Cessna 172 single-engine aircraft was found by a Thurston County Sheriff’s Office helicopter. The pilot of the crashed plane, a female from Vancouver, Washington, was found deceased on the scene.

The aircraft took off from Paine Field in Everett around 11:30 p.m. on October 29 and was headed to Troutdale, Oregon. As she was talking to air traffic controllers, the pilot reported heavy rains and turbulence. Air traffic controllers lost contact with her about 30 minutes into the flight.

“Air search and rescue teams used radar information to locate the aircraft,” said Tom Peterson, WSDOT Air Search and Rescue Coordinator. “The plane was found in the Capitol Forest area, which is west of Olympia. It was within 2,000 feet of where the radar technician led us.”

Teams from WSDOT, the Thurston County Sheriff’s Office, the Air Force, and Washington Air Search and Rescue participated in the search, which was conducted at the Olympia Regional Airport.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) are investigating the crash.

5. Sport Aviation Center Closer to Reality at Arlington Airport

Investors are nearing their funding goal to build a new education, exhibition, and hangar facility designed to provide sport aviation services at the Arlington Airport. The new 19,000 square foot building is scheduled for completion in time for the July 2005 Arlington Fly In. Recently the FAA approved the new sport aviation aircraft and pilot category that will provide an economical option for many who are interested in becoming recreational pilots.

6. Forest Service Comes Through at Lake Wenatchee

In an effort to help keep the state-owned airports healthy and usable, the Forest Service delivered 200 pounds of grass seed this week to vegetate parts of Lake Wenatchee’s runway. During the summer wildfires, the Forest Service used Lake Wenatchee State Airport for nearly a month as a helicopter staging area and firebase. Dave Brown, Forest Service Aviation Manager, met with Jim Scott several times during the fire season to coordinate the use of state airports for firefighting operations.



7. Airport Layout Plan Kick-Off Meetings Conclude in Rosalia

Aviation’s Stan Allison and Eric Johnson took advantage of the nice weather last week to fly the state plane to Rosalia for the final Airport Layout Plan (ALP) kick-off meeting. Over the past seven weeks, the pair has traveled to Brewster, Camas, Cashmere, Cle Elum, Electric City, Ocean Shores, Odessa, Omak, Oroville and Rosalia to attend kick-off meetings held as part of the Phase I - Multiple Airport Layout Plan Project.

The ALP process evaluates the configuration and condition of existing facilities and addresses the short-term and long-term needs of the airports. In cooperation with WSDOT Aviation, airport sponsors have undertaken the ALP project with the support of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The airports are included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS), administered by the FAA. NPIAS airports are eligible for federal funding through FAA programs such as the current Airport Improvement Program (AIP). The FAA requires that all NPIAS airports have an up-to-date ALP to be eligible for federal funding.

At the meetings, the airports' Advisory Committees were presented with information about the process, purpose, schedule of the project, and a draft Inventory Report. Over the next couple of months, committee members will be presented with different portions of the ALP Narrative Report and tasked with providing comments back to W & H Pacific, the consultant completing the ALPs.

A second round of meetings will take place in January and February, when the committees will discuss the future facility requirements for their airports. The consultant will then draft the ALP drawings and meet with the committees a final time before the ALPs are circulated and reviewed by the FAA.